



Discovering Nature's Packaging



Objective

To teach students that some food items come in their own natural packaging.



Key Vocabulary Words

Packaging
Compost



Activity Description

Circle and color the items that have their own natural packaging.



Duration

1 hour



Materials Needed

- Copies of the *Find Nature's Packaging* worksheet for each member of the class
- Crayons or markers



Skills Used

Observation/classification
Motor skills



Activity

Step 1: Discuss how some food products have their own natural packaging that protects the part people eat. If possible, bring in examples of items that have natural packaging (e.g., bananas, unshelled nuts, oranges) and others that do not (e.g., cheese, crackers, soda). Discuss how nature's packaging can be used in compost, which returns materials to the earth. Refer to the Teacher Fact Sheet titled *Composting* on page 109 for background information on the composting process.

Step 2: Distribute the *Find Nature's Packaging* worksheet and pass out crayons or markers. Ask the students to circle the items that have natural packaging.

Step 3: Ask the students to color the items on the worksheet.



Assessment

1. Ask students what items have their own packaging.
2. Ask students what we can do with natural packaging instead of throwing it away.



Enrichment

1. Start a vermicomposting bin in the class to demonstrate how nature's packaging can be recycled rather than thrown away. (See the activity *Worms at Work* on page 127 in the Compost chapter for instructions on how to start a vermicomposting bin.)
2. Bring in a variety of unshelled nuts (e.g., pistachios, walnuts, peanuts). Draw or find a sketch of a face, animal, or a fun object. Photocopy it and give one to each student. Have the students shell the nuts and then glue the shells to the sketch. Use paints to color the picture once the glue has dried.

Name: _____

Find Nature's Packaging!

